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DE RUEHVI #3596 3551609
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 211609Z DEC 06
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5832
INFO RUEHHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY 0788
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 1696
RUEHSL/AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA PRIORITY 1988
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY 1180
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RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY 0380
RUEHLJ/AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA PRIORITY 1464
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RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY 1433
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AMGT AORC PREL UNGA AU

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO AUSTRIA ON UN SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS

REF: STATE 200954

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¶1. (U) A/DCM presented reftel demarche on December 21 to Peter Huber, the Austrian MFA's DAS-level UN Director. A/DCM stressed the need to maintain the 22 percent ceiling, noting the significant level of U.S. financial contributions. We also addressed potential concerns about the U.S. response to the 2000 funding deal, noting that the U.S. cleared the arrears and made a voluntary contribution, as promised. We argued against the concept of "headquarters benefits," noting agreement on this question between the U.S. and Austria (which hosts the UN in Vienna).

¶2. (SBU) Huber said it seemed the U.S. was going to achieve its goals in the discussion of the scale of assessments. The 22 percent ceiling was no longer in doubt, he said. The remaining issue was the base period, and that would not block consensus. Huber commented that "the EU looks isolated," and is looking for "a face saving way out."

MCCAW